



## VFC PROGRAM ALERT #5 - September 6, 2012 – 1 page

TO: Vaccine Coordinator, VFC Agreement Signatory, Clinic Manager  
FROM: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, Public Health-Seattle & King County  
TEL: (206) 296-4774, FAX: (206) 205-5780, EMAIL: [vfcinfo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:vfcinfo@kingcounty.gov).

### RETURNING VACCINE

**Only EXPIRED and SPOILED vaccines can be returned to the VFC Program.** Spoiled vaccines are sealed vials or syringes that have been stored incorrectly or otherwise mishandled; **always consult with Public Health** before deciding whether vaccines have been spoiled.

- **Complete the Vaccine Incident Report form** and fax it to both Public Health (206-205-5780) and to the state Department of Health (DOH) (360-236-3597). List number of doses per lot number for each vaccine. Get the Vaccine Incident Report form at the Public Health Web site: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/immunization/vfc.aspx>.
- Avoid the risk of medication errors by **removing expired and spoiled vaccines from the refrigerator or freezer** immediately. Store the vaccines at room temperature in a bag or box labeled "Do Not Use."
- **DOH staff input the report information to a CDC database, which notifies McKesson Distribution.** This message should signal McKesson to mail a prepaid postage label to the name listed on the Vaccine Incident Report form. However, problems with the database have caused significant delays. **Please be patient**, and note that Public Health does not have information about your postage label.
- **When your prepaid postage label arrives, pack the vaccines in a McKesson styrofoam carton**, along with a copy of the original Vaccine Incident Report form.
- **Set out the package for pickup by UPS.** NOTE: UPS charges a fee for *scheduled* pickups.
- **List expired/spoiled doses on the appropriate month's Vaccine Usage Report in column "D."**

### TRANSFERRING VACCINE

King County VFC Program participants may transfer doses to (or from) another King County VFC provider **when necessary to continue vaccinating children.**

- Notify Public Health that you want to arrange for a transfer of VFC vaccine (this includes short-dated vaccines being transferred to high-volume clinics to be used before expiration). Requests will be approved on a case-by-case basis. We can also help identify nearby clinics that may be able to loan vaccines.
- Both parties to the transfer should be clear whether or not "repayment" will be expected/provided.
- Record the transfer on the appropriate month's Vaccine Usage Report: list doses received by you in column "B"; list doses transferred from you to another clinic in column "E."

Previously, Public Health asked providers to complete a "Borrowing Report" when VFC participants took doses from the VFC supply to address a shortfall in the clinic's private (purchased) supply. These guidelines have been revised following consultation with the state Department of Health (DOH). Effective immediately:

- **VFC Program vaccine should NOT be used to vaccinate adults, except on rare occasions** (e.g., using a dose of Hib vaccine to immunize an adult patient who is asplenic or who has undergone chemotherapy). **Each use requires the permission of DOH (via Public Health). Usage must be documented on the Monthly Report of Vaccine Usage.** Send requests to [vfcinfo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:vfcinfo@kingcounty.gov).
- **Using purchased vaccine to immunize a child, because of a delay in shipping from the VFC Program, is permitted with prior approval from Public Health.** Document the use on the Vaccine Incident Report form when the purchased doses used to vaccinate children have been replaced from out of your VFC inventory.

**INFLUENZA VACCINE IS AVAILABLE! Get the request form at Public Health's Web site listed above.**